



MNPD NEWSLINE

THE OFFICIAL EMPLOYEE NEWSLETTER OF THE MNPD

November 2, 2007

News from the Chief

Commander Rick Lankford informed me this week that he will retire from his distinguished 35-year career with the Metropolitan Police Department at the first of next year. Over the past four years, I have come to know Rick as a forward-thinking law enforcement professional and friend who continues to serve the citizens of South Nashville and this police department in an exemplary fashion. I certainly respect his decision to retire, and it has been my pleasure to work with him over these four years. We will all have a chance to formally celebrate Rick's outstanding Metro Police career and thank him at an event to be held at the end of this year or the first of next.

We must now begin the task of contemplating Rick's successor. In that regard, I have asked that all captains seriously think about whether they want to be considered for an appointment as the commander of the South Precinct and to notify me of their decision over the next week. It is my intention to have the incoming commander spend some on-the-job time with Rick before he leaves.

Last Friday night, the West Nashville community experienced a tragic, targeted double homicide as two employees of Bellacino's restaurant on White Bridge Road were murdered during a robbery by a former employee.

Commander Mickey Miller, lead Detective Brad Putnam, Sergeant Freddie Stromatt and a number of other officers and investigators at the West Precinct worked around the clock to identify those involved in the case and bring them to justice. Thanks to their efforts, and the assistance of our Special Response team and the U.S. Marshal Fugitive Task Force, the suspects were taken into custody and confessed Monday night. I am very proud of the dedicated and outstanding work of Commander Miller and his team.

Officers and professional support staff throughout this great department are doing tremendous work day after day. Thank you for all that you do to make a difference in the lives of Nashville's families and visitors.

Happenings

Courageous police work by South Precinct Officer Jason Mayo that resulted in the arrest of two dangerous robbers and kidnappers in July of last year has now earned Mayo the Judge John L. Draper Joint Nashville Police Odd Fellow Award for the second half of 2006.

Mayo received a \$500 cash award.



Pictured (l-r) are Chief Serpas, Odd Fellow Award winner Officer Jason Mayo, and Odd Fellow Association member Patrick Wells.



Pictured (l-r) are Odd Fellow Award nominees Officers Shane Fairbanks, Jeff Bauer, Chief Serpas, Ron Bright, Josh Black, Bridget Griepentrog, Benjamin Cantrell, Shannon Hamm, Spencer Harris, Ed Escamilla, Michael Kent, Brad Burns, Joshua Mayo, Odd Fellow Association member Patrick Wells, Jason Mayo, Marty Reed, Odd Fellow Association member George Huffman, Melissa Schultz, Brian Brown, and Mark Anderson.

1st Annual Law Enforcement Talent Showcase

Nashvillians turned out at the Wildhorse Saloon October 22nd to see some very talented members of the department perform for a great cause. The talent showcase and silent auction raised over \$8,000 to benefit the Nashville Coalition Against Domestic Violence and the Nashville 100 Club for Officer Danita Marsh.

Mayor Karl Dean gave opening remarks and Harry Chapman, formerly of NewsChannel 5, served as master of ceremonies.

A special thanks to all in the department who volunteered their time and talents to make the showcase such a success. Rest assured, organizers say, there will definitely be a 2nd annual showcase! DVDs of the talent show will soon be available. Proceeds will help fund future benefits.



Pictured (l-r) are Officer Danita Marsh, North Precinct Commander Louise Kelton, and Derrick Decton.



East Precinct Commander Bob Nash was accompanied by Sergeants Dan Ogren on drums and Bill York on bass.



Pictured (l-r) are Officers Bonita Blue, Angela Booker, Alisha Shoates, and Candace Jones.

***Beverly Buchanan Retirement Party
Celebrating Over 35 Years of Service***



Beverly Buchanan

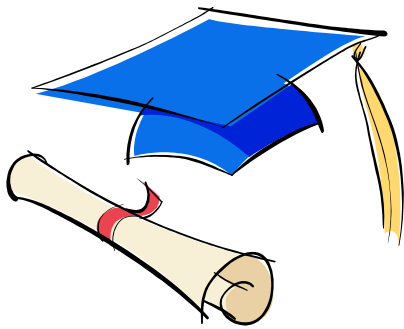
Training Academy Open House

The October 23rd Open House at the police department's training academy for men and women interested in becoming Metro officers was an overwhelming success despite the rain as 176 potential officer candidates stopped by to receive information and have their questions answered.

Three recruit classes are planned for calendar year 2008.



Members of Session 55 participating in High Ropes Training.



**Session 55 Graduation Ceremonies
Monday, December 3
6 p.m. at Woodson Chapel Church of Christ
5800 Edmondson Pike**

The Precinct News

Hermitage

Officers responded to a rash of break-ins at several car lots and related businesses by setting up a surveillance operation that led to the arrest of a man who admitted to seven burglaries.

He was caught after removing all four wheels from an Expedition at Two Rivers Ford. He broke into the business at 3 a.m. and loaded the stolen tires into the back of his van. A second suspect was also developed.

During a traffic stop Officer Jacob Pilarski detected a strong odor of marijuana. Seized in a subsequent search of the car were over 118 grams of marijuana, 64 Ecstasy pills, drug paraphernalia, and cash. The driver and passenger both had extensive arrest histories.

Sergeant Keith Stephens stopped a speeding driver and also detected an odor of marijuana. Seized during a consent search were 20 grams of marijuana and a loaded handgun.

A burglary suspect was captured by officers moments after he was seen running out of an apartment. He was identified by a neighbor as the man who broke into the victim's home. He was charged with aggravated burglary. Officers did a great job locating and detaining the suspect.

South

Officer Kenny Stephens stopped a car at Zoo Road and Nolensville Pike when he discovered the driver, who did not have a handgun carry permit, was in possession of a pistol equipped with a laser. He was charged with unlawful weapon possession.

A suspected copper thief was arrested after officers saw him walking down Nolensville Pike pushing a shopping cart full of electronic cables. An investigation determined the items had been stolen from a company on Kennedy Avenue. The business owner confirmed that the cables were stolen and the suspect was charged with theft.

East

Officer Brian Theriac stopped a driver who ran a stop sign on Cleveland Street at North 9th Street. He did not have a license and was taken into custody. A stolen handgun was found in the car. The driver admitted he was on parole for homicide. He was charged with theft and felon in possession of a handgun.

Officer Rich Lowry stopped a car on Ellington Parkway because the registration plate was improperly displayed. The driver appeared to be extremely nervous and admitted to Officer Lowry that he had marijuana inside the vehicle. Seized in a subsequent search of the car were 29 grams of marijuana and \$539 cash.

A search warrant was executed in the 300 block of Trinity Lane. Cocaine, marijuana, and two weapons were seized all within 1,000 feet of a day care center. Two persons were arrested.

A traffic stop over an improperly displayed license plate led to the seizure of two handguns, one stolen. Officer Broderick Jones arrested the driver and charged him with theft, driving on a revoked license, and unlawful weapon possession.

North

Seven people were arrested after officers responded to community complaints about a drug house in the 900 block of Delray Drive. Neighbors were very grateful to officers for their efforts.

North Precinct officers arrested the man suspected of brutally attacking Nashville community leader Francis Guess outside Guess' Hydes Ferry Road home on October 8th.

Kenneth John Gipson, 44, an ex-convict who has been charged with 97 offenses between 1987 and this latest arrest, was taken into custody while riding his bike.

Investigation by Detective Chris Steele, along with a tip from a citizen, led to the identification of Gipson as a potential suspect. Guess was shown a photo lineup that included Gipson's picture and positively identified Gipson as his assailant.

Three men who took part in robbing the Mapco store at 401 Myatt Drive were greeted by a host of Metro officers before they could even leave the parking lot.

Officers were keeping a close eye on the market after receiving a tip that it was likely to be robbed.

The plainclothes extra duty robbery initiative led to the arrest of four teenagers and one 20-year-old for an armed robbery and shooting at Toliver's Jewelry & Loan pawnshop on South Gallatin Pike in Madison.

Officer Lawrence Lacy quickly responded to the robbery call and broadcast the description of the suspects and their getaway car, a white Chrysler Sebring, over the police radio. Minutes later, Officers Charles Taylor and Richard King, who were in the Madison area working the surveillance assignment, spotted the getaway car on Archwood Drive near State Route 45. The car was stopped and all five occupants were taken into custody without incident. Twenty-six pistols, along with \$2,700 cash, were recovered from the car.

Two juveniles and three adults are charged with especially aggravated robbery.

An investigation into drug dealing by a Mexican national living in Madison has resulted in the seizure of more than eight pounds of cocaine, tens of thousands of dollars in cash, five vehicles, and one motorcycle.

North Precinct undercover officers received information that Jesus Aguirre Gomez was dealing in large amounts of cocaine and began tracking his movements.

Detectives believe Gomez had been dealing cocaine in the Madison and North Nashville areas for more than a year and was distributing substantial amounts each week.

West

A consent search of a Dodge Ram stopped for speeding on Briley Parkway led to the seizure of 1.5 grams of cocaine, \$1,098 cash, and the pickup truck. Officer Shane Shetler charged the driver with possession of cocaine for resale.

A convicted felon refused to stop for officers after he ran a red light. He struck a telephone pole and fled on foot. Officer Michael Mendenhall captured him after a brief foot chase. A stolen handgun and marijuana were found inside the wrecked car.

The suspect was charged with felon in possession of a handgun, evading arrest, possession of marijuana for resale, and theft.

Central

Contractors renovating the Werthan Building reported that a large amount of copper tubing and over \$10,000 worth of power tools had been stolen from the building site. Officers Stephen Haines and James Malone, checking nearby pawn shops, noticed a man in line at Jefferson Street Pawns with some of the stolen items.

The 49-year-old suspect confessed to the theft and showed officers where the rest of the stolen copper and tools were stashed. The suspect has been arrested nine times since 2003.

A burglary suspect was arrested after he broke into an apartment thanks to information gathered by Sergeant Buddy Mitchell.

The suspect was seen breaking into a residence in the 1700 block of 10th Avenue North. Sergeant Mitchell notified the dispatcher that he was nearby and to get a description of the vehicle. The dispatcher advised that the suspect was leaving in an orange Blazer with temporary tags.

Sergeant Mitchell later spotted the suspect vehicle. The driver admitted to the break-in. He showed officers where he had sold the stolen items which led to the arrest of a second man.

Both suspects have over 125 prior charges between them.

Fraud Unit

Fraud detectives have charged a Mt. Juliet woman with stealing tens of thousands of dollars from Nashville construction company executive Ray Bell and his wife primarily through the fraudulent use of Mrs. Bell's credit cards.

Rebecca Martin, 39, of 1224 Mires Road, is presently charged with two counts of identity theft and five counts of fraudulent use of a credit card. Additional charges are expected.

The investigation shows that Martin, an employee of the Bell family who had access to their home, used Mrs. Bell's credit cards and claimed to be Mrs. Bell while purchasing and ordering expensive merchandise from a number of retailers. The thievery is believed to have taken place over a period of many months.

Detectives executed search warrants on six storage bins rented by Martin at Joelton Self Storage located at Eatons Creek Road and Clarksville Pike. Hundreds of new items were seized, including furniture, clothing, computer equipment, other electronic items, and silverware. A search warrant executed at Martin's Mt. Juliet home resulted in the seizure of similar items as well as \$49,000 worth of gift cards from home stores, electronics businesses, restaurants, movie theaters, and department stores.



Pictured (l-r) are Detective Casey Stupka, Lieutenant Mickey Garner, and Detective Kelly White as they answer media questions about the Martin investigation.

Interdiction Unit

A traffic stop by a Drug Interdiction officer led to the seizure of 2.64 pounds of crystal methamphetamine with an estimated street value of \$319,000 from a pickup truck on I-40 East near Old Hickory Boulevard.

The officer stopped a 2005 Chevrolet Avalanche for weaving onto the Interstate shoulder. The driver, Jose Reyes Acuna, 27, of Elizabethton, Tennessee, did not know who owned the pickup. He consented to a search of the truck and a police dog alerted to the presence of a drug odor.

A subsequent search of the Chevrolet, bearing Texas plates, resulted in the discovery of three bundles of crystal methamphetamine hidden under the truck.

Acuna and his passenger, Jilberto Chavez Hernandez, 35, are each charged with possession of methamphetamine for resale.

MDHA Task Force

Officers assigned to the MDHA Task Force responded to a drug complaint in the 600 block of South 6th Street. Seized in a consent search were .5 grams of cocaine, marijuana, and three weapons. The leaseholder was charged with possession of stolen property, felony cocaine possession, and marijuana possession. Her boyfriend was served with two outstanding warrants.

The following officers in the Field Operation Bureau were chosen Patrol, Police, and Investigator of the Month for September 2007:

Patrol Officer of the Month

Central Precinct Officer Barbara Stewart
South Precinct Officer Erika Snow

Police Officer of the Month

East Precinct Officer Bruce Guldeman

Investigator of the Month

South Precinct Detective Scott Sulfridge

Special Operations

Traffic Unit Officer Don Davidson

**The following officers in Investigative Services were
chosen Investigator of the Month for August, September, and October 2007:**

Investigator of the Month for August
Domestic Violence Detective Jason Orsbon

Investigator of the Month for September
Specialized Investigations Division Detective Michael Gooch

Investigator of the Month for October
Youth Services Detectives Selene Julia and Faye Okert

Congratulations:

Officer Craig Carlson, East Precinct, and his wife, Karla, are the proud parents of Caitlyn Frances born October 29.



Condolences:

William Sharer, Jr., father of Detective Billy Sharer, Auto Theft, passed away October 21.

Theresia Jerkovsky, grandmother of Sergeant Arnold Rickert, Domestic Violence, passed away October 18.

Evie M. Wells-Ridley, mother of Officer Harold Wells, School Resource, passed away recently.

Frank Fitzgerald, grandfather of Officer Eric Fitzgerald, Sex Crimes, passed away October 26.

The mother of Officer Gary McElhiney, Central Precinct, passed away October 28.

Evelyn Chandler, grandmother of Officer Anthony Chandler, North Precinct, passed away October 29.

Gregg Francis, a long-time friend and supporter of the department and Crime Stoppers, passed away October 30.

FYI:

Reminder: The **Christmas Basket Fund** does not accept any calls for assistance from private citizens. Applications are submitted by officers who know that a family is in need.

Thank you, Commander Andy Garrett

New District Attorney's Office Website

The District Attorney's office has created a new website with a Case Information section designed to update officers on case dispositions.

www.da.nashville.gov

Officers can direct victims and witnesses to the site where they will find a wide range of helpful information including directions to court, where to park, and appropriate courtroom attire. The Office News section provides information on a variety of topics including Rule 30, sentencing guidelines, and the juvenile transfer statute. MNPd personnel are encouraged to offer suggestions concerning the site by contacting the District Attorney's Director of Communications Susan Niland at susanniland@jis.nashville.gov

Metro Government Employee Flu Shot Update

You may have heard about how a malfunctioning refrigerator ruined the remaining doses of the Health Department's flu vaccine.

The Health Department wants you to know that we will obtain additional vaccine in enough time to go forward with the scheduled Metro Government employees flu shot clinics.

As in previous years, flu shots are free only to current Metro employees. Flu shots will not be offered to retirees or family members at the special clinics for employees. Please bring an employee ID or check stub to confirm employment.

Thanks for helping get the word out.

Brian Todd
Public Information Officer
Metro Public Health Department

The Metro Public Health Department will once again provide free flu shots this year to Metro Government employees. Flu shots will be available November 5th, 6th, 7th, and 9th at the following locations.

<u>Date:</u>	<u>Time:</u>	<u>Location:</u>
November 5 th	8 a.m. – 3 p.m.	Vinny Links (Shelby Park/East Nashville)
November 6 th	8 a.m. – 3 p.m.	Tennessee State Fairgrounds (South Nashville)
November 7 th	8 a.m. – 3 p.m.	Metro Courthouse (Downtown)
November 9 th	8 a.m. – 3 p.m.	Metro Southeast (Southeastern Davidson County)

Directions to Vinny Links:

From I-24 East or West

Exit at Exit #49 (Shelby Avenue/Coliseum)

Continue up to light and make a right on Shelby Avenue

Take a right on South 5th Street and continue until it dead ends

Take a left at dead end onto Davidson Street

Continue on Davidson Street and enter Shelby Park

Look for the Vinny Links sign after the golf course ends and take a left between the golf course and baseball diamond

The Learning Center will be up the hill on the right

Please park in the lot on the left side of the building

From Shelby Avenue Westbound

Take a right on South 17th Street

Continue until it dead ends at the park at Sevier Street

Take a left on Sevier Street; continue down hill past the golf course to the Learning Center

Turn right into the parking lot

Directions to the Tennessee State Fairgrounds:

From Nolensville Road turn into the Tennessee State Fairgrounds, go to the stop sign, turn left onto Raines Avenue, and go to the top of the hill. We will offer flu shot in the Flea Market Office lobby.

Directions to the Historic Courthouse:

The Historic Courthouse is located at 1 Public Square. Enter through the main entrance and check through security. Take the elevators to the 6th floor and a sign will direct you to the correct courtroom.

Directions to Metro Southeast:

Metro Southeast is located at 1417 Murfreesboro Road (across from New Orleans Manor and close to the airport in the old Genesco building). Enter through the main entrance and check through security. The security guard will direct you to the Green Hills Room.

Promotion Test Training for Sergeant Candidates

Dates: January 8, 9 &10 OR January 11, 12 &13, 2008

Times: 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. each day

Place: La Quinta Inn, 2345 Atrium Way (Near Airport)

Cost: \$289 (or \$269 by check or cash)

For more information, you may call 407-234-4466 or email Promotion Test Training at prott@bellsouth.net. Additional information can be found on their website at www.promotiontesttraining.com

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